

The Report
Top Secret



Watch Committee

Watch Report

DRAFT—Submitted for USIB Approval

CIA

Top Secret

Meeting No. 1262

30 October 74

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WATCH COMMITTEE DRAFT WATCH REPORT
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

1800

30 October 1974

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The Committee concludes that there will be no military attack on the United States or its overseas forces in the near future.

Subjects of immediate concern are discussed below.

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I. Middle East

1. The agreement at the Arab Summit Conference to ~~Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole~~ endorse the ~~establishment of an independent Palestinian~~ ~~representing Palestinians~~ authority on the West Bank under the leadership of the ~~Palestine Liberation Organization~~ has raised additional obstacles to progress in Middle East negotiations and has increased tensions in the area. If the current diplomatic impasse is not resolved ~~within the next few weeks~~, the risk of renewed warfare will increase sharply. Arab and Israeli forces are maintaining a state of readiness which would permit the ~~initiation of major offensive~~ action. We continue to believe that the most dangerous threat to the cease-fire is on the Golan Heights, where a hasty decision by either side could result in hostilities with no further warning.

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2. Fighting continues in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, with government forces holding the initiative for the

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moment.

II. USSR-Eastern Europe

3. We see no indications of hostile intent in the military activity of the USSR or other Warsaw Pact nations.

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III. Southeast Asia

4. The Communists in South Vietnam apparently are being briefed on a new directive to achieve the overthrow of the Thieu government by a continuation of the mix of political and military action ~~at a level similar to that of~~ ^{through} 1974. The directive also calls ^{however} for a "general offensive" in 1975 should the Communists be unable to force significant gains.

~~by the end of the year~~ The North Vietnamese do have the capability to launch a 1972-scale offensive with little or no warning. We believe, however, that the real purpose of this new document is to exhort the Communists to make greater efforts during an anticipated increase in fighting in the southern portion of the country.

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